

BOOK REVIEW

JOACHIM WOLSCHKE-BULMAHN and JACK BECKER. 1998. **American Garden Literature in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (1785–1900): From The Newengland Farmer to Italian Gardens: An Annotated Bibliography.** (ISBN 0-88402-253-6, pbk.). Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection, Washington, D.C. U.S.A. \$35.00 pbk. ix + 243 pp., b/w illustrations.

This annotated bibliography summarizes 410 books on horticulture, botany, gardening, garden design, cemeteries, parks, rural architecture, and landscape architecture in America. The titles were published in the United States between 1785 and 1900 and are housed in the collections of the Garden Library of Dumbarton Oaks. Traditionally, the library's dominant holdings have been in the areas of English, French, and Italian garden literature, in keeping with the interests of garden historians. In recent years, as increasing numbers of scholars have addressed the American landscape, Dumbarton Oaks expanded its holdings in 19th-century American literature.

Although, as noted by the authors, the traditional form of bibliography no longer has the same importance as it did in the past, because more and more libraries place their complete holdings online, and printed bibliographies are still valuable for scholars because they often provide important additional information in introductory essays, annotations, illustrations, indices, and other supplementary material. It is precisely in this aspect that the value of the present bibliography lies.

The book is organized in five sections: **I.** Introduction; **II.** Annotated list of titles; **III.** Chronological list of titles; **IV.** Index; and **V.** Bibliography. The introductory essay presents a history of the literature of American gardening, horticultural, and landscape, cemetery and park design. The annotations are succinct but adequate comments on each title's contents. The index is extensive and provides one of the greatest values of the volume. One wishes for more and better illustrations (none are in color); however, publishing constraints may have placed unwanted limitations on the bibliographers.

The bibliography of *American Garden Literature in the Dumbarton Oaks Collection (1785–1900)* will be a useful addition to the library of a scholar of the genre.—Joan H. Swaim.